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CIRCULATION DURING MARCH.
W. B. Carr, Business Manager of The St. Louis Republic, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily and Sunday Republic printed during the month of March, 1903, all in regular editions, was as per schedule below:

Date	Copies	Date	Copies
1 (Sunday).....	121,000	17.....	117,210
2.....	117,000	18.....	118,340
3.....	116,000	19.....	116,000
4.....	118,100	20.....	118,840
5.....	116,320	21.....	118,000
6.....	116,400	22 (Sunday).....	120,740
7.....	118,200	23.....	117,130
8 (Sunday).....	122,220	24.....	118,150
9.....	117,540	25.....	119,570
10.....	117,000	26.....	117,000
11.....	117,640	27.....	117,800
12.....	116,700	28.....	117,000
13.....	117,000	29 (Sunday).....	123,510
14.....	118,040	30.....	118,500
15 (Sunday).....	122,210	31.....	118,770
16.....	117,270		

Total for the month.....3,985,140
Less all copies spoiled in printing, left over or filed.....90,839

Net number distributed.....3,894,301
Average daily distribution.....115,000

And said W. B. Carr further says that the number of copies returned and reported unused during the month of March was 628 per cent.

W. B. CARR,
Notary Public, City of St. Louis, Mo.
My term expires April 25, 1905.

WORLD'S—1904—FAIR.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL.

Many reasons other than those of political aspect make manifest the desirability of electing to-day the Democratic Council ticket. Progress has been facilitated in consequence of the harmony prevailing in the various departments of the municipal government. With a Council divided against itself harmony would give way to partisan warfare, and there would be no forward movement.

Only one plea has been made in behalf of the Republican Council ticket and that was inspired by the Republican machine. This plea is that the Republican Council ticket should be elected so that the progressive administration would have "beneficial opposition." "Beneficial opposition" is, as every citizen understands, intended to be partisan obstruction to plans of advancement.

Progress, reform and good government are such new and agreeable conditions in St. Louis that the people will not be willing to return to the old, disappointing methods. Progress could not compete as effectively as might be wished with the persistent obstruction that would come from a strong minority, organized to make trouble for the administration and to make capital for its party at any cost to the municipality.

Public welfare demands election of the Democratic Council ticket. Mayor Wells has provided good government and put public business on a firm basis. His plans for reform and betterment should be ratified. He is responsible for the achievements or failures of his administration, and he should have support that he may fulfill all pledges made to the people. In emergencies he must look to the Council; therefore, the Council should be in sympathy with his policies.

The administration, including the majority in the Council, is justified in asking the voters to strengthen the Mayor by electing the Democratic Council ticket. There should be a majority strong enough to take an aggressive stand on public measures. The Mayor is entitled to such a majority in the Council.

Hold-up tactics in the House have often engendered public anger and disgust. The next House can be made a reform House, with nineteen good Delegates. But there is only one means to bring about this reform. Good citizens must not only vote, but vote for House nominees who are fit, irrespective of party affiliations.

BRING OUT ALL THE EVIDENCE.
Satisfactory results in the boodle investigation now under way at Jefferson City and in St. Louis depend upon the vigilance and resoluteness with which the Grand Jury follows up every clue and insists upon the presence and testimony of all witnesses believed to have knowledge of corrupt practices.

It is reassuring to be told that the Grand Jury is determined upon an inquiry of this nature. Additionally gratifying is the fact that Attorney General Crow and Circuit Attorney Folk are working together in effective harmony and that each has already furnished the other with information that can be used to advantage in Jefferson City and in St. Louis, the Attorney General conducting the work in the State capital and Mr. Folk in this city.

The St. Louis authorities can render most valuable assistance in collecting evidence, and there should be little doubt that, with resolute action at both ends of the line, the facts of corruption will be brought to light and indictments returned against those indicated as guilty.

There must be no failure in securing the testimony of witnesses; the persons whose testimony is desired must be duly found and made to appear and testify. No individual thought to have knowledge of boodle methods at Jefferson City should be allowed to dodge. The greatest danger to the success of such investigations arises from the proneness of Grand Jurors to take things a bit too easily, trusting to the willingness of witnesses to testify voluntarily. Instead of firmly insisting that every desired witness be

brought in and made to testify. It is upon this insistence that the success of the present investigation hangs.

As matters now stand, the boodle inquiry promises to reach results that will be convincing and of a nature to discourage legislative corruption in the future. These results will be attained, however, only by the development of the full facts through the testimony of competent witnesses. There must be no failure in this respect, and every energy should be bent to the task of insuring the complete success of the investigation by making it certain that no witness whose evidence is required shall fail to testify to his knowledge of the facts.

When you cast your vote for the House nominee remember that careless voting was largely responsible for the historic era of loot and corruption which brought shame to St. Louis. Your vote will either assist reform or tend to perpetuate combines and fasten rule upon the city. Read The Republic's ticket and remember that its recommendations are based upon careful and impartial investigations.

TO-DAY'S ELECTION.

Realization of reform in the House of Delegates depends upon two conditions and one class of citizens. Reform can be accomplished in the House if all respectable citizens will, as they should, go to the polls to-day and vote for St. Louis. But reform in this legislative branch of the Government will not be achieved unless the conditions, upon which hinge salutary results, are fulfilled. The conditions are that every good citizen vote, and that every good citizen vote for the best-equipped nominees.

Apathy toward to-day's election is not excusable in any citizen who understands the moral and governmental issue involved. Most citizens comprehend some of the significance of this election in regard to the House; a few may fail to appreciate the immense importance of the results. There is scarcely a man in St. Louis—let us hope there is not one—who does not perceive that victory for incompetent candidates portends continuation of malpractices that have put the House in disrepute; that victory for fit men assures reform in methods and motives. If there are any who do not see that a reformed House means a higher value to every interest in St. Louis, let them think this morning.

The Republic would impress upon all respectable citizens four vital points about this election. First, the necessity for a large respectable vote, indicating the duty of every good citizen; second, the necessity, on the part of good citizens, of abandoning party lines and voting in the light of conscience; third, the necessity for voting for the House nominees whose personal qualifications are the best; fourth, the duty of every respectable citizen to work with especial energy to defeat those nominees who brazenly represent gang influence.

Now St. Louis has an opportunity to elect a House superior in every respect to the misrepresentative bodies that have made the legislative organization notorious for many years. It is possible to elect at least eighteen, probably nineteen, men who will afford real representation to their wards. Were eighteen competent men elected the House would be a two-thirds good, instead of four-fifths bad. We could well call such a House, composed of eighteen good Delegates, a reform House.

There is only one course to follow. Respectable citizens will elect a reform House by going to the polls and voting for the nominee whose reputation and qualifications are satisfactory. Respectable citizens will elect unfit Delegates by remaining away from the polls. They will fail in public duty, if, after having gone to the polls, they fasten the party collar around their necks and obey the commands of machine leaders. The only hope for reform in the House lies in the severance of party ties.

The Republic submits to the respectable citizens a composite ticket that insures certain improvement in the House; it is the Reform ticket, comprising nominees who were selected at much care from the Democratic, Republican and Independent tickets. The ticket consists of eleven Democrats, four Republicans and four Independents.

In some words both the Democrats and Republicans named satisfactory men. Where both candidates were good, The Republic chose the Democratic candidate, in accordance with its own belief in the responsibility of government by party where other things are equal.

Reform in the House is possible. It can be brought about by the respectable citizens, if they will vote, and vote for fit nominees. By all means every good citizen should vote. By all means every good citizen should disregard party dictates and vote for the House nominee who is qualified. It is up to the respectable people of St. Louis. They can reform the House. This is the day and to-morrow's regrets will be worthless.

"Beneficial" opposition to the good-government movement is still presented by partisan cliques. It is a unique spectacle which they present, endeavoring to nullify the steady good work of thirty months. As District Attorney Jerome once remarked, "It would be laughable were it not so sad."

IMPERATIVE NECESSITY.
The efforts now maturing in religious circles with the object of conducting evangelistic work during the World's Fair commend themselves to the constructive and optimistic element.

It is confidently expected that the Reverend Campbell Morgan will accept the leadership of the work, for which his broad experience amply qualifies him. It is the plan to associate with him many other noted evangelists both of this and other countries, giving the meetings a national and international as well as local significance.

It is proposed that daily meetings be held in some centrally located building, if one may be secured; if not, it is the plan to erect a building specially. In scope the work will be commensurate with the great universal undertaking. It will doubtless constitute the greatest series of evangelistic meetings in the world's history.

As part of the grand plan of concentration of the world's interests, the project is not only fitting but indispensable. No great assembling of the nations would be complete or characteristic without its religious aspect and motive. The spiritual as well as material interests of humanity must have full representation. Christianity, civilization's dominant and eternal motive, should have its perfect freedom of expression at a concentrating of the earth's people of the Twentieth Century.

The undertaking demands first place in the considerations of the Exposition officials. Every aid and encouragement should be extended to promote and assure its success.

CIVIC VIRTUE IS WANTED.
This paper's opposition to certain candidates for the House of Delegates does not necessarily relate to their integrity as business men or to their private and domestic life.

To be sure, the private character and business integrity of a man should be taken into account in estimating his fitness for office. A man whose personal qualifications are bad should not be recommended for public service. On the other hand, it does not neces-

sarily follow that a man of personal, domestic and business integrity is fit for office.

Men of good business character and standing given to fair dealing as between man and man may nevertheless be the worst of the "bad" politicians. Especially is this true of ward men and bosses. Good standing, "squareness" with his neighbor, and good morals constitute the foundation of many a ward boss's strength. Even in the "bad" wards, private honesty and morality are requirements of leadership. These men hold private virtues and the integrity of private relations above public duty. They would deal fairly with customers, friends, neighbors and families; but they would lightly betray the public. In their code of morals politics for profit, betrayal of the public may likely enough accord with a, so to speak, local, neighborhood, domestic integrity.

In its recommendations for or against candidates, or in those instances which it declined to recommend either of the nominees, The Republic has not sought to bring discredit upon business or personal character and reputation; but has concerned itself with the "political" character, affiliations and records of the men. In the latter aspect several of the candidates have seemed distinctly unfit, and it is this unfitness primarily which The Republic has endeavored to impress upon the voters. Once more the truth is urged upon the voter that it matters not how reputable and honest a man may be in private and business life; this does not constitute good citizenship or qualify him for public service. If he stands for the practice of using public office for private profit he will be a bad servant no matter how agreeable he may be in private life.

Asbamed of their real attitude as the advocates of the old machines, the anti-Reform organs are wearing the mask of intense zeal for folk. The best answer to their hypocrisy is to vote to-day as folk votes. While as a public officer he will perhaps not say how he is going to vote, he is certain to cast his ballot for the Democratic Council ticket and for the Democratic House of Delegates candidate in his ward—a clean, upright, resolute young man like himself.

SHAMELESSNESS.

When the McClure's Magazine writer was telling about the "shamelessness" of St. Louis he neglected to describe the worst evidence of the shameless—newspapers which for the sake of serving politicians or from pure love of doing injury labor to deceive the public with false issues and to disintegrate the forces of good government.

Mayor Wells and Circuit Attorney Folk have worked together for the city's betterment, each in his own department. Such men and their friends must co-operate or the co-operation of evil forces in politics will win.

And yet there are newspapers which have subordinated the public issues of this campaign to the design of separating the friends of these two men into inimical factions.

The Republic has shown that Mayor Wells has sincerely and energetically supported the Circuit Attorney in the boodle prosecutions. He made it a matter of tireless personal exertion. The people remember his message to the Municipal Assembly urging a special appropriation to defray the unusual expenses of collecting evidence in these cases. He did not stop with that official effort, but personally solicited and turned over to Mr. Folk a fund of \$12,000.

Anti-Reform papers have intimated that no such fund was raised. The Republic has taken pains to ascertain the details—a not difficult task, since Mr. Folk has himself frequently told about the fund and its origin. In exact figures, the sum was \$12,455. Of this the Mayor contributed out of his private means \$1,500—\$1,000 at one time and \$500 at another time.

To assault Mayor Wells with the charge of lack of sympathy with the Circuit Attorney's work is shamelessness, sure enough. It is the abandonment of good government for the sake of the gangs; or, it is the unbridled spirit of malice without the excuse even of partisanship. In some papers it appears to be the one and in some the other.

It is an easy question—that before the voter to-day. There are no complicated issues, and it is a short ticket. He will vote for six members of the Council and one for the House. Put in the six Councilmen who will surely assist and not hamper the excellent administration of public business; and, without regard to politics, carefully select the best man in your ward for the House.

It is all nonsense to say that the chance of Democratic victory in 1904 lies in the malign possibility of hard times. There is manifestly no such thing as exclusively Republican prosperity, unless by that is meant the gorgeously fat condition of the trusts. If there is such a thing as exclusively Democratic prosperity, it is a condition of health, wealth and material enjoyments distributed among all the people.

England's and France's greatest statesmen are now engaged in determining the momentous question whether a lobster is or is not a fish. Bound up with this are international treaties and fisheries rights relating to Newfoundland. It has been shown beyond question that a lobster is a sucker, which would seem to support the contention that he is a fish.

RECENT COMMENT.
Good Work in Missouri.
Missouri has dealt the so-called Beef Trust a heavy blow. Under the statutes recently enacted by the Legislature of that State the Attorney General of Missouri instituted proceedings against the trust. The Supreme Court of the State affirmed the decision in the court below. The trust was fined \$25,000 for unlawful combination in restraint of trade. If it recognizes the judgment of the court and pays its fine within thirty days it may continue to do business in the State. If the monopoly continues to violate the antitrust law of Missouri it will not be allowed to carry on business in that State. Our Republican contemporary, the New York Press, commends the action of the Missouri authorities.

"States," it says, "whose lawmaking power is not in the control of the trusts through the pernicious workings of commercialized bossism should hasten to follow the helpful example of Missouri." Our Brooklyn contemporary, the Eagle, remarks that the Missouri Supreme Court's decision "will be generally approved, no matter what the constructive effect of it may be upon corporate enterprises and privileges."

Such comments are encouraging and justify the hope on the part of the people of Gotham that the authority of the State of New York may be exerted in their defense the next time the price of meat is "advanced by agreement" in the Beers Store. It cannot be possible that "commercialized bossism" is more powerful in New York than in Missouri or that the Legislature of the former State is less willing to protect hungry people than the lawmakers of Missouri.

Dramatized Novels.
The Independent.
The Independent has suffered much from censors, translators and misinterpreters in all lands, but the treatment he is receiving from the hands of the dramatists is the worst of all. The dramatic art is so far behind the literary, or perhaps we ought to say rather that the theater audience is so inferior to readers in quickness of artistic perception, that ordinary human beings with their much-mixed motives must be made into the heroes and heavy villains of easily recognizable types of the stage. A literary work in delicate shades of color has to be redrawn in black and white when it is put behind the footlights. A Correggio becomes a Ribera. Just so we have seen a half-toned portrait from a book thrown ten feet high on the screen with the stereopticon and become an almost unrecognizable man of dots and splashes. The same Jane Eyre of the stage is a snippy miss and Trollope is a burlesque.

NOTABLE VISITORS ENTERTAINED AT SMALL INFORMAL GATHERINGS.



Who is visiting Miss Helen Christy Clubb, who is Miss Mabel Wood's guest, having arrived last week, will be considerably entertained during her stay.

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ENTERTAINED AT EUCHRE.
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lehman of Westminster place entertained at euchre Friday evening. The prizes were won by Doctor Holton, and Mr. J. P. Wood and Mr. P. X. Barada; Mrs. Biggers, Mrs. John Parkman Woods and Mrs. Elbrecht. The guests were Messieurs and Mesdemoiselles: F. X. Barada, George Bergfeld, Raymond Cronin, P. H. Ingalls, Gerald O'Reilly, George Richard, "Teacake," Miss Nannie Carnegie, Mr. E. Troilicht.

AN INFORMAL AFFAIR.
A social evening was spent at the home of Miss Helen Shultz, No. 433 Labadie avenue, on Friday. After music and a trip on the Funtville, Frolictown and Featherbrain Railway, refreshments were served. Among the invited guests were: Harry Webb, Lee Elder, Cleveland Anderson, Arthur Hildebrand, Will Hayward, Howard Shultz, Joe Shultz, Misses: Grace O'Connor, Pearl Clark, Dorothy Barrett, Estelle Sewing, Martha Guirman, Madeline Barrett, John Wagner, Alfred Tenme, Edward Wamhoff, Ralph Wilson, Gusie Barrett.

MISS GAUS'S PARTY.
Miss Gaus entertained young folks in honor of her daughter, Pearl Gaus, on Saturday evening. Music was the main feature of the evening. The balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet" recited by Mr. Ralph Wilson and Miss Grace O'Connor, was enjoyed. Among those present were: Misses: Grace O'Connor, Pearl Clark, Dorothy Barrett, Estelle Sewing, Martha Guirman, Madeline Barrett, John Wagner, Alfred Tenme, Edward Wamhoff, Ralph Wilson, Gusie Barrett.

SURPRISE PARTY.
A surprise party was given in honor of Gertrude Carling, secretary of the Independent Social Club, Sunday night at No. 1027 Howard street. The feature of the evening was a recitation by Miss Maud Bartfield. Those present were: Gertrude Carling, Jennie Kopke, Dora Bandler, Mollie Garfinkel, Rose Gell, Paula Barnholtz, Fannie Kopke, Dora Nuscholtz.

PERSONAL MENTION.
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Handian departed for Washington yesterday to visit their two daughters, the Misses Vella and Kathryn. They will spend Easter there and will go to New York for a few days.

Mr. George B. Hubbard, who has been dangerously ill, is slowly recovering.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Keough have sent out cards for the marriage of their daughter, Lola Elmine, to Mr. Charles Fuchsing, on Wednesday, April 15, at Immanuel Baptist Church. The wedding will be quiet, owing to illness in the family.

MERGER OF CAR COMPANIES AWAITS RETURN OF KOBUSCH.
Officials Admit That There is a Deal on Between the Laclede and St. Louis Concerns.

Officials of the Laclede and St. Louis Car companies say that negotiations which are on for the consolidation of those corporations have not been closed as yet, and probably will not be before the return of George J. Kobusch, president of the latter company, from Hot Springs.

It was reported on a local street yesterday that the deal for consolidating the two companies had actually been closed, and that a large issue of bonds would be made to refund the indebtedness of the concerns and take care of the consolidation expense. This was denied by E. I. Robinson, vice president of the Laclede Car Company. "Reports of the consolidation have been current for several months," said Mr. Robinson, "but as yet nothing definite has been decided upon. There are grounds for the reports—in fact, the matter has been taken up. The published report that the Laclede Car Company had purchased an Eastern car company is without foundation."

The consolidation of the St. Louis and Laclede car companies would reduce the street car manufacturers in St. Louis to two concerns. The Brill company of Philadelphia absorbed the American and Brunswick companies. Efforts were made by the Brill to acquire the St. Louis company. These came to nothing, and at the time of officers of the company stated positively that they would not enter the trust.

TO DISCUSS THE ITINERARY.
Government World's Fair Board Will Meet Saturday.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Washington, April 6.—In response to the invitation of the World's Fair Company, extended to the Diplomatic Corps located at the national capital, the State Department to-day received the official acceptance from the Cuban Legation to attend the dedicatory exercises.

Colonel Brigham of the Department of Agriculture and chairman of the Government Board to the World's Fair, has called a meeting of that body for Saturday. The meeting has been called in order to discuss the itinerary of the trip to St. Louis to attend the dedicatory exercises.

FASHION IDEA FROM FRANCE.
Laclede Car Company's new model.

A SUGGESTION FOR EASTER.
This costume is perfectly correct. The absolute matching of the articles of wear, the proper hat, parasol and the uniquely styled cape and stole examine costume with its embroidered finches show the most excellent form of high-class dress for the spring season.

Full From Street Car.
Gustave Williams of No. 7800 Minnesota avenue sustained deep gashes above the eyes and a fracture of the nose, falling from Fourth street car at Grattan street and Chouteau avenue Sunday afternoon.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO TO-DAY IN ST. LOUIS.
From The Republic, April 8, 1878.
The residence of the late F. C. Sharp, known as "Cracker Castle," and located at the corner of St. Ange and Chouteau avenues, was sold by E. G. Opear to G. W. de Camp for \$25,000.

Flora Frank, who in private life was Jennie Lee, a variety actress, who sang at Tivoli Hall, inherited \$100,000 on an uncle's death.

A special church was organized at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, among the members being Misses Bousliniere, Taylor, Darby, Ryan and Ella Patterson.